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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 001867

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SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/EU/SUDAN: PREPPING FOR GAERC DARFUR
DISCUSSION

REF: STATE 15931

Classified By: POL Counselor Andrew Schofer, for reasons 1.4 (b/d)

1. (C) Summary: The Dutch expect GAERC conclusions to maintain political pressure on GOS, endorse coordination with AU/UN/US, and to increase humanitarian assistance. In a scheduled July 24 meeting with GOS FM Ismael, FM Bot and Dev Min Van Ardenne intend to express deep concern about the situation in Darfur and pressure the GOS to take responsibility for actions and commitments. End Summary.

2. (C) Poloff delivered ref points to Acting Sudan Desk Officer Marieke van Ressen and EU Correspondent Joep Wijnands July 23. MFA reps noted that the Political and Security Committee (PSC) is already in session today discussing draft conclusions on Sudan in preparation for Monday's General Affairs External Relations Committee (GAERC). Director for Political Affairs Jaap Werner (protect) reported to PolCouns that the main message will be to keep up the political pressure, coordinate with AU/UN/US, and to increase humanitarian assistance. Werner suspected that the conclusions drafted in today's PSC would need some "fine-tuning" during the GAERC itself, and noted that the EU would be following events in New York closely.

3. (C) Werner added that the Dutch (at U.S. request) had checked on the money transfer to the AU and believed there would be no problem on either the EU or the AU side. Werner also indicated that the EU will send experts to the Darfur Mediation Team and AU monitoring mission. Van Ressen said the need for more technical assistance would be noted at the meeting, but said it was too late to confirm that the reftel request for additional airlift capacity would be discussed.

4. (C) Van Ressen and Werner confirmed that Foreign Minister Bot and Development Minister Van Ardenne will meet with Sudanese Foreign Minister Ismael on Saturday, July 24 in The Hague. Van Ressen expected that Bot would express deep concern over the continued lack of security for the population of Darfur and the insufficient progress shown to date by the GOS, and that he would impress upon Ismael that it is the responsibility of the GOS to live up to its commitments.

5. (C) Van Ressen said the GoNL believes the GOS will not make sufficient efforts and noted the continued GOS denial of the existence of a humanitarian crisis. She declared that at this point "the most possible pressure is needed." Van Ressen and other contacts expressed a desire for continuing close coordination between the EU and US on the issue.
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